

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 187708  
ORIGIN OES-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 OIC-02 DLOS-09  
EB-08 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 TRSE-00 EPA-01  
CEQ-01 NSF-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 PA-01 SP-02  
PM-05 SS-15 SSO-00 DOTE-00 DOE-15 L-03 ACDA-12  
SOE-02 INR-10 ICAE-00 INT-05 IO-13 DOEE-00 INRE-00  
/148 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/OCA:L.ROSE:LS  
APPROVED BY OES/OFA/OCA:JBROWN, ACTING  
NSF:JBRENNAN

-----054034 252232Z /45

O 252140Z JUL 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187708

ATTN: R. TUCKER SCULLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, XV

SUBJ: STATEMENT ON EXPLORATION FOR ANTARCTIC MINERALS BY  
BOB THOMPSON OF NEW ZEALAND

FOLLOWING TRANSCRIPT OF NEW ZEALAND TV INTERVIEW WITH  
BOB THOMPSON OF NEW ZEALAND, JULY 3, RECEIVED BY POLAR  
AFFAIRS JULY 25. IN VIEW OF SEVERAL INTERESTING STATE-  
MENTS CREDITED TO THOMPSON, AND COMMENT OF NEW ZEALAND  
REPORTER, NOT CONTESTED BY THOMPSON, THAT QUOTE ANTARCTIC  
STUDIES ARE AT THE TURNING POINT NOW ... MOVING AWAY FROM  
PURE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO EXPLORATION TO ESTABLISH THE  
TYPE AND EXTENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES CLOSE QUOTE SUGGEST  
YOU MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH NEW ZEALAND DELEGA-  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 187708

TION. TRANSCRIPT TEXT FOLLOWS:

INTRO: NEW ZEALAND HAS JOINED JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES  
IN THE FIRST EVER SEARCH FOR OIL IN ANTARCTICA'S MCMURDO  
SOUND. NEW ZEALAND HAS INITIATED AN OFF-SHORE SCIENTIFIC  
DRILLING PROGRAMME IN ANTARCTIC'S MCMURDO SOUND IN CO-  
OPERATION WITH JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES. THIS WAS RE-

VEALED TODAY BY THE HEAD OF THE DSIR'S ANTARCTIC DIVISION ON HIS RETURN FROM MEETINGS IN TOKYO AND WASHINGTON. IT'S BELIEVED TO BE THE FIRST OFF-SHORE EXPLORATION IN THE ANTARCTIC AREA AND IS EXPECTED TO BOOST HOPES OF A MAJOR

OIL FIND AROUND THE FROZEN CONTINENT.

REPORTER: NO ONE KNOWS THE EXTENT OF THE ANTARCTIC HIDDEN MINERAL RESOURCES BUT NEW ZEALAND HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN SUFFICIENT GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH THERE TO UNDERTAKE EXPLORATION AND STEP FURTHER. THE DRILLING RIG USED IN A DRY VALLEY PROJECT WILL BE MOVED TO AN OFF-SHORE ICE PLATFORM FOR NEXT YEAR'S JOINT RESEARCH PROJECT WITH JAPAN AND THE U.S.

BOB THOMPSON: NEW ZEALAND TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN SUGGESTING A PROGRAMME OF DRILLING INTO THE MCMURDO SOUND AND DRILLING THROUGH THE SEDIMENTS ... VERY THICK SEDIMENTS INTO A BED ROCK. AND THOSE SEDIMENTS PROVIDE A RECORD OF THE PAST 47 MILLION YEARS ...(ONE WORD INAUDIBLE BECAUSE REPORTER STARTS TO ASK QUESTION) ... HISTORY REALLY.

REPORTER: HOW WILL THE U.S. AND JAPAN BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROGRAMME?

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 187708

THOMPSON: WELL, WE'LL BE INVITING SPECIFIC SCIENTISTS... SPECIALISTS IN VARIOUS FIELDS AND THEY WILL ALSO PROVIDE A LOT OF MATERIAL THINGS... UNITED STATES, FOR INSTANCE, WILL PROVIDE THE VERY NECESSARY...THAT IS THE DRILL RIG ITSELF. JAPAN WILL BE PROVIDING A LOT OF THE LABORATORY TYPE EQUIPMENT.

REPORTER: ANTARCTIC TREATY COUNTRIES ARE OBLIGED TO SHARE ALL SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE GATHERED IN THE AREA. BUT PRESSURE IS MOUNTING IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR TERMS TO BE DRAWN UP FOR RESPONSIBLE EXPLOITATION OF THE CONTINENT'S MINERAL WEALTH. MR. THOMPSON SAYS THIS IS THE MOST CRUCIAL QUESTION FACING ANTARCTIC TREATY COUNTRIES AT THE MOMENT. BUT HE SAYS ANTARCTIC STUDIES ARE AT THE TURNING POINT NOW...MOVING AWAY FROM PURE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO EXPLORATION TO ESTABLISH THE TYPE AND EXTENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES.

THOMPSON: I DON'T THINK THERE WILL BE ON LAND ... CERTAINLY THE MINERALS MAY BE THERE BUT THE EXPLOITATION ON MINERALS WOULD BE VERY, VERY DIFFICULT AND VERY EXPENSIVE BECAUSE OF THE GREAT COVER OF SNOW AND ICE. I THINK THE

GREATEST POTENTIAL MIGHT LIE IN THE OFF-SHORE AREAS.

REPORTER: DO YOU SEE THAT AS BEING ANOTHER NORTH SEA  
OIL FIND AREA?

THOMPSON: WELL, THERE ARE THOSE PEOPLE WHO WOULD SAY

IT COULD EVEN BE GREATER BUT ONE DOESN'T KNOW. THERE  
HASN'T NOT YET BEEN ENOUGH WORK DONE TO REALLY SAY YES  
OR NO TO THAT QUESTION. END OF TEXT.

DURATION: 2 MIN, 30 SEC. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPLORATION, PRESS COMMENTS, MINERALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE187708  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** L.ROSE:LS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780305-0721  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780722/aaaaashh.tel  
**Line Count:** 127  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 7910e76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN OES  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 jul 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1891800  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STATEMENT ON EXPLORATION FOR ANTARCTIC MINERALS BY BOB THOMPSON OF NEW ZEALAND FOLLOWING TRANSCRIPT OF NEW ZEALAND TV INTERVIEW W  
**TAGS:** PLOS, EFIS, XV, NZ, (THOMPSON, BOB)  
**To:** BUENOS AIRES  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/7910e76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014